
SCIENCE TEACHERS!!!

The Michigan Departments of Environmental Quality and Education are asking for your help to reduce *mercury* pollution.

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Mercury is a naturally occurring toxic trace element that has been used in thousands of household and commercial products and industrial processes. It has numerous applications in science classrooms and laboratories.

WHY SHOULD YOU BE CONCERNED?

Mercury has been recognized as one of the primary pollutants of concern for Michigan. It is a potent neurotoxin that can adversely affect humans at elevated levels.

MERCURY SPILLS



Several mercury spills have been reported in Michigan, resulting in the evacuation of schools, costly cleanup, and unnecessary exposure to toxic mercury fumes! There has been at least one case of mercury poisoning reported by a Michigan science teacher.

FISH CONSUMPTION



Mercury can be converted in the environment by microorganisms into the organic form, methylmercury, which is especially toxic. Currently, a fish consumption advisory is in place for all of Michigan's 11,000 inland lakes due to mercury contamination.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP:

- **Avoid using mercury in your classroom**
- **Replace mercury products with mercury-free alternatives**
- **Recycle any mercury that you have in your classroom/lab**

WHERE CAN YOU TAKE THE MERCURY? CALL FOR INSTRUCTIONS:

• **John Funkhouser, Michigan State University, Chemistry Department
(517) 353-4557, ext. 201**

• **Dave Erickson, Northern Michigan University, Chemistry Department
(906) 227-1074**

• **Jim McEvers, Hazardous Materials Manager, Wayne State University,
(313) 577-1200**

SEVERAL SCIENCE TEACHERS HAVE ALREADY PHASED OUT THE USE OF MERCURY AND CURRENTLY USE MERCURY-FREE THERMOMETERS, CALL:



Greg Camen, Pinconning High School, (517) 878-2311

Margaret Hill, Central Michigan University, (517) 774-3143



ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS???

CALL:

1-800-MI-TOXIC — For Information on Fish Consumption

1-800-662-9278 — For Information on P2